

	United States Department of Agriculture  Forest Service	<b>NEWS RELEASE</b>	<b>KLAMATH NATIONAL FOREST</b>  1312 Fairlane Road, Yreka, CA 96097 (530) 841-6131 <a href="http://www.fs.usda.gov/klamath">www.fs.usda.gov/klamath</a>	
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## **The Klamath National Forest Continues to Monitor Songbirds on the Mid Klamath River**

**Yreka, CA,** - This year marks the 16<sup>th</sup> year of songbird demographic monitoring on key riparian habitats of the mid Klamath River. On early mornings throughout the summer, local biologists and volunteers set an array of mist nets along an area of the Klamath River. These finely-woven nets safely capture migratory and resident songbirds that live in these densely vegetated river habitats. The birds are quickly banded, measured and released. This monitoring documents bird population growth and declines.

Sam Cuenca (Wildlife Biologist on the Salmon/Scott River Ranger District) states: “Specifically our bird monitoring effort measures adult survivorship, reproductive success, survivorship and recruitment of young into the breeding population, and the balance between immigration and emigration in riparian habitats.” This data helps scientists understand basin-wide changes in breeding bird populations from year to year and determines declines or recovery of a particular bird species.

Birds are direct indicators of the health and functioning of entire ecosystems. Since this monitoring is being conducted across the Americas, the Klamath River data contributes to the larger effort to determine bird populations along the entire Pacific Flyway. Public lands provide some of the most important habitats for birds across the U.S.

The monitoring is conducted in close coordination with the Klamath Bird Observatory in Ashland, Oregon and the US Forest Service Redwood Sciences Lab in Arcata, California. For more information on songbird monitoring, contact Sam Cuenca at (530) 468-5351. Or visit the Klamath Bird Observatory website at: <http://www.klamathbird.org/>



Wing molt is measured as an aging character on this red-breasted sapsucker.  
(photo by Sam Cuenca)

